

School Improvement Through Service-Learning



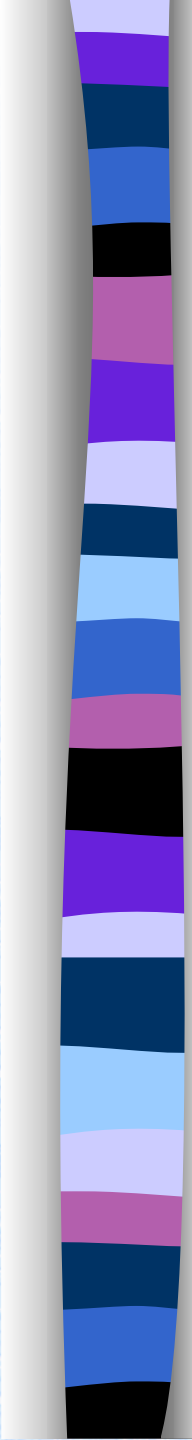
Maryland State Department of
EDUCATION



What is Service-Learning?

Service-Learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning.

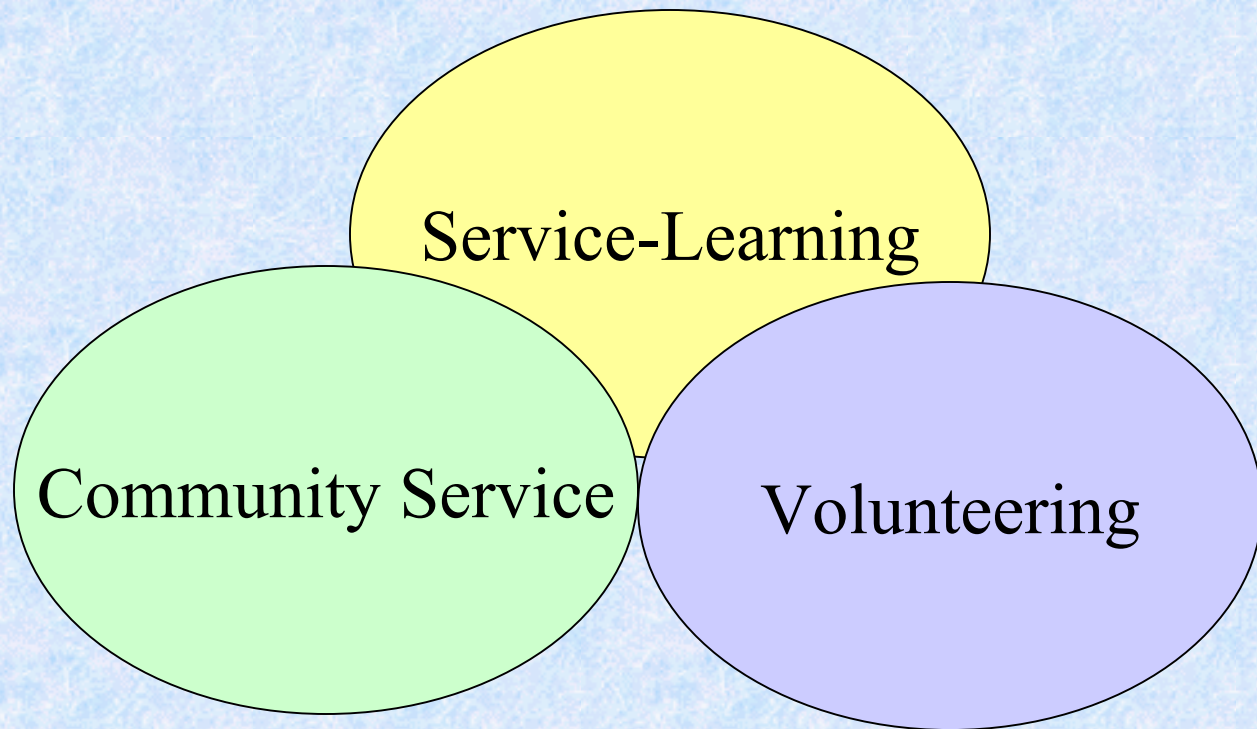
In Maryland, service-learning activities are tied to *Best Practices* and other accountability measures.

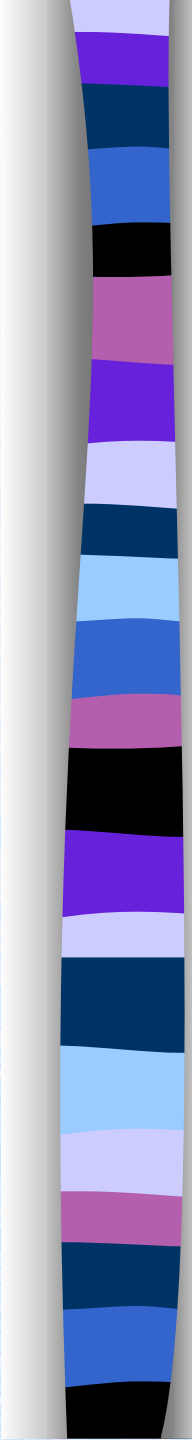


Service-Learning Projects are linked to education reform initiatives such as:

- MSPAP
- High School Assessments
- Career Connections/ School-to-Work
- Character Education
- Multicultural Education
- Dimensions of Learning
- Understanding by Design
- Closing the Gap

Service-Learning is different from community service and volunteering





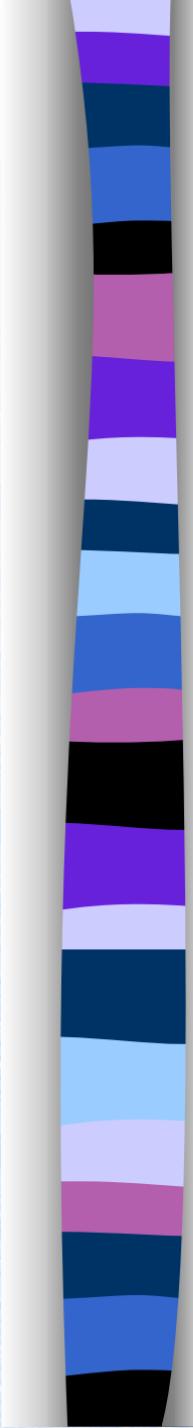
**Service-Learning is widely used nationally
in K-12 and higher education.**

A third of all public schools and half of all public
high schools link service with the curriculum.

Parents broadly support service-learning in their
children's education.

Service-Learning Impacts on Youth, 1990-1999;
Kellogg & Kauffman, 2000.

Service-Learning Impacts, 1990-1999.



In Maryland, Service-Learning is a graduation requirement for all students.* Students must complete:

(1) seventy-five hours of student service that includes preparation, action, and reflection components and that, at the discretion of the local school system, may begin during the middle grades; **or**

(2) a locally-designed program in student service that has been approved by the State Superintendent of Schools.

Maryland State Code (COMAR) 13A.03.02

*all students earning a diploma



Key Characteristics of high quality Service-Learning

- Rigorous standards are clear and known to all
- Roles and responsibilities are understood
- Building coordinators are supported by Principal
- Students participate as leaders and trainers
- Regular training occurs on standards and practice

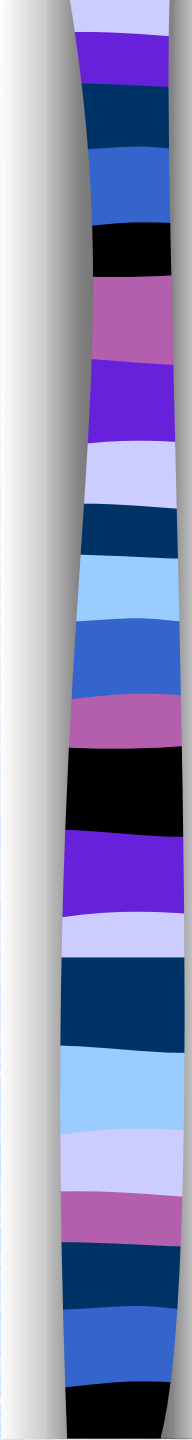
Maryland State Department of Education,
Report to State Board of Education, June 2001



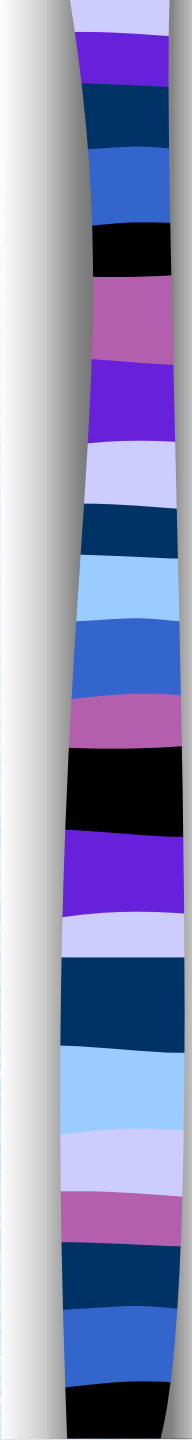
Research supports:

- Service-learning participation was associated with higher scores and higher grades on the state test of basic skills.
- Middle and high school students who tutor increased their grade point averages and test scores in reading/language arts and math and were less likely to drop out of school.

•Weiler, LaGoy, Crane, and Rovner, 1998. Anderson, Kinsley, Negroni, and Price, 1991. Shumer, 1994; Shaffer, 1993; Dean and Murdock, 1992; O'Bannon, 1999. Follman, 1999. Loesch-Griffin, Petrides, and Pratt, 2005. Stephens, 1995.

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- Students who engaged in service-learning came to class on time more often, completed more classroom tasks, and took the initiative to ask questions more often
 - Elementary and middle school students had improved problem solving skills and increased interest in academics

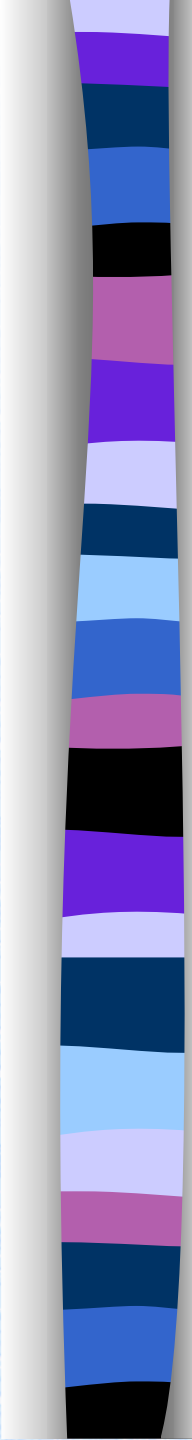
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Service-Learning activities decrease likelihood of students engaging in risky behaviors. Students are less likely to:

- Be referred to the office for discipline
- Engage in behaviors leading to pregnancy and arrest
- Engage in unprotected sexual activity or violent behavior, and they have
- Reduced levels of alienation and behavioral problems.

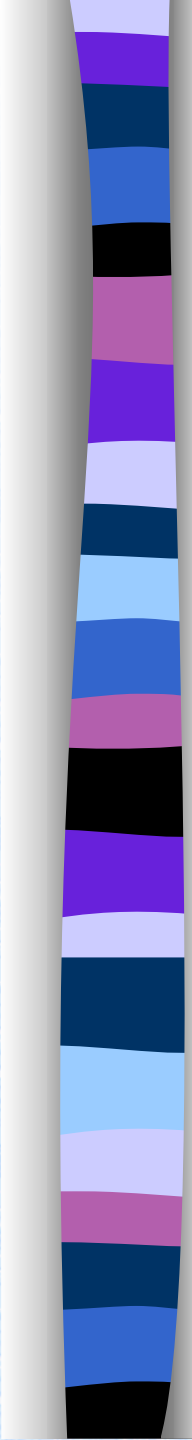
Stephens, 1995; Yates and Youniss, 1996; Follman, 1997; Melchior, 1999; Allen, Kuperminc, Philliber, and Herre, 1994; Shaffer, 1993; and others



Students develop interpersonal and work skills through service-learning:

- Trustworthiness, reliability and responsibility
- Empathy and cognitive complexity
- Acceptance of cultural diversity
- Dependability and comfort in communicating.

Stephens, 1995; Morgan and Streb, 1999; Courneya, 1994; Melchior, 1999; Berkas, 1997; Shaffer, 1993; Loesch-Griffin, Petrides, and Pratt, 1995.



Quality Service-Learning improves the performance of students and schools through:

- Improved academic achievement
- Deepened civic involvement
- Broadened interpersonal skills
- Increased self-esteem
- Expanded school pride and spirit
- Strengthened school-community links
- Enhanced school climate



MSSA Materials

- Curriculum,
- Video,
- Model Program Guides,
- Interdisciplinary Webs,
- Best Practices Resources

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
800-808-SERVE

MSSA Staff **410-767-0358**

MSSA's website: **www.mssa.sailorsite.net**